

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01

RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01

SIL-01 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02 /058 W

----- 123911

R 151705Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: LABOR UNITY IN TROUBLE

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. THERE IS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF DIFFICULTIES FOR LABOR UNITY. UIL CHIEF VANNI IS RESISTING ORGANIZ UNITY AND UIL METAL WORKERS CHEIF BENVENUTO HAS EXPRESSED TO THE EMBASSY HIS CONCERNS ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS. FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN AUTHORITATIVE JESUIT PUBLICATION HAS CLEARLY CONDEMNED THE CURRENT SERIES OF STRIKES AND LABOR'S EXPENSIVE DEMANDS, ITS POSITION COINCIDING WITH THAT OF THE CISL MINORITY. END SUMMARY.

2. EVIDENCE OF DIFFICULTIES WITHIN THE CCU CONTINUES TO MOUNT. DURING THE CLOSED MEETING OF THE CCU SECRETARIAT ON NOV. 12, UIL CHIEF VANNI WAS JOINED BY CISL SECRETARIES MARINI AND FANTONI IN DISAGREEING WITH THE STORTI-LAMA REPORT WHICH ADVOCATES ACCELERATION TOWARD ORGANIC UNITY. INSTEAD, THEY DECLARED THAT THE CURRENT LOOSE FEDERATION WAS AS FAR AS THE UNIONS SHOULD GO.

3. GIORGIO BENVENUTO, SECRETARY GENERAL OF UIL'S METAL WORKERS UNION (UILM), AS SOUGHT OUT THE EMBASSY TO CONVEY HIS GRAVE

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CONCERNS ABOUTMATTERS. HE IS FEARFUL THAT, UNLESS CURRENT

TRENDS ARE CHECKED, A SPLIT MAY OCCUR IN CISL WHICH COULD CARRY ALONG THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OF THE UIL. THIS WOULD LEAVE THE UIL IN DISARRAY AND ITS SOCIALISTS (BENVENUTO IS A SOCIALIST) WITH NO PLACE TO GO EXCEPT THE EMBRACE OF THE COMMUNISTS. HE CONCEDES THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE GETTING THE MOST OUT OF THE LABOR UNITY GAME. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED WITH LAMA'S PROPOSAL FOR PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION (ROME'S 15674) WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT, SWAMP THE UIL. BENVENUTO ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE INACCURATE PICTURE OF THE ITALIAN LABOR SITUATION HELD BY (UNNAMED) VISITING AMERICAN UNIONISTS.

4. FINALLY, THE AUTHORITATIVE JESUIT PUBLICATION CIVILTÀ CATTOLICA, IN ITS CURRENT ISSUE, STRONGLY CONDEMNS THE CURRENT SERIES OF STRIKES BY THE CCU. THE ARTICLE ALSO QUESTIONS THE DEMAND FOR SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED WAGE ESCALATION PAYMENTS. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE PUBLICATION HAS TAKEN SUCH A CLEAR POSITION ON LABOR PROBLEMS, AND ITS POSITION COINCIDES CLOSELY WITH THAT OF THE CISL MINORITY.

5. COMMENT: IF VANNI AND BENVENUTO ARE IN AGREEMENT ABOUT CCU MATTERS, AS NOW APPEARS TO BE THE CASE, THE UIL COULD CONCEIVABLY WITHDRAW FROM THE CCU SHOULD A STEPPED-UP TIME-TABLE FOR ORGANIC UNITY BE AGREED TO BY LAMA AND STORTI. BENVENUTO HAS TAKEN RADICAL POSITIONS ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS IN THE PAST, BUT HE IS A MAN WHOSE EYE IS ALWAYS ON THE MAIN CHANCE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY UNITY, LABOR UNIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ROME16026
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740331-0004
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741139/aaaabhbb.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <13-Aug-2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR UNITY IN TROUBLE
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, IT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005